CLA Senate Meeting Minutes

Date: October 19, 2026 | **Time:** 2:30–4:00 PM | **Location:** I03-3300 (ISC)

Minute Taker: Dana Miranda

Attendees: Karen Okigbo (Socio), Sheldon George (Africana), Joe Ramsey (American), Avary Carhill-Poza (Applied Ling), Amy Sue Hazel (Performing Arts), Nino Kebadze (LAIS), Simone De Lemos (At-large LAIS), Kellee Barnard (Classics), Lindsay Ma (Comm), Courtnay Sprague (CRHSG), Jean-Phillippe Belleau (Anthro), Daniel Remein (English), Alicia Rodriguez (Modern Lang), Leila Farsakh (Political), Ayesha Irani (Asian Studies), Danielle Morales (Socio), Trevor Memmott (Public Policy), Dana Miranda (Philo).

1. Approval of September Minutes

- **Action:** Motion to table the September Minutes seconded and approved until our next meeting.

2. Approval of Agenda

- **Action:** Motion to pass the agenda seconded and approved.

3. Dean's Report

- **Early Alert:** Please encourage faculty members to participate in the early alert system as this helps with student success.
- **Beacon Budget Model:** Still moving forward with implementation in 2027. In this model, deans can compare how much revenue is generated for every department and compare it to the costs of salaries.
    - **Question:** Could certain metrics (transfers, enrollment rates, graduation rates) hurt CLA on the backside? Could any of these metrics be audited? CLA does quite well with the Beacon Budget Model since we supply service courses throughout the University. For each student, departments will receive funds based on 80-20 model. Eight percent will be received by the college of instruction and twenty percent by the college of record. However, state appropriation is based on how well we retain and increase our students since we only have a 73% retention rate.
- **Enrollment:** Grim news: tracking has found that the entire university has gone down in enrollment with CLA is down by a hundred students. This has affected the Instructional Budget. CLA has been asked to cut twenty or Spring 2027. The CLA Dean has asked each departmental chair what courses can be cut as the University wants this finalized by November 4th.
    - The Chairs Meeting is October 20th. Deans Prasad will review chair suggestions but is also pushing back against cuts to make sure students are not hampered.
    - Associate Lecturers will be the most affected by the cuts. If budget issues continue, we might be affected by how many tenure-track lines the college gets.

    - **Question:** How are the other UMass Campuses affected? UMass Amherst is doing good, UMass Lowell adjusted their budget two years ago, UMass Dartmouth is in the same position as our campus, but UMass Chan is the most impacted.
- **CLA News:**
    - The Dean is hosting a Faculty Development Meeting primarily for First-Year Faculty Members this semester.
    - The Dean's Office will host two more events this semester with the One Page Project: **1)** Machiavelli's *The Prince* with Liza McCahill (History) on Thursday, October 29th, 12:30-1:30pm and **2)** Alexis de Tocqueville's *Democracy in America* with Evan Stewart (Sociology) on Tuesday, November 17th, 12:30-1:30pm.
    - The Dean will host a Pop-Up Meeting in November and in the Spring.
    - With the passing of Prof. Cuf Ferguson, Human Services has been impacted. This program is now having trouble staffing courses and is without a director or chairperson. There is talk of either sunsetting the program, making it a track, making it a major in a related department, or shifting classes, which are primarily remote/online, to in-person courses.

4. Moderator's Report

- Recruiting one at-large positions and three NTT senators.
- Business from 2025-2026: Space and Protest Policy, Satisfaction Survey, University Dining Club, FOIA Requests.
- There is interest in having some of these concerns (University Dining Club, Satisfaction Survey, FOIA Request, and Space Policy) addressed as New Business for this academic year.
    - The Moderator will request an update from the FSU on the current protest policy.
    - The Senate will discuss how the new catering policy (contracts can only be signed with Sodexo) affects the tenability of having events, especially with outside organizations, given the higher costs. This includes possibly looking into the contract with Sodexo.

5. Faculty Council Report

- Chair Timothy Oleksiak: Making the rounds with all the Senates. The Faculty Council (FC) has ten standing committees and generally deals with shared governance issues regarding policies that affect the entire university. For instance, the Quality-of-Life Committee not only runs a regular climate survey every three years but could also address concerns regarding the University Dining Club.
    - **Sodexo:** There is a concern regarding the costs and monopoly that the company has regarding food service on campus.
    - **Surveillance:** More security cameras were installed during the summer on campus. This links to the lack of shared governance regarding faculty input on space use.
    - Invitation: Senators are invited to share concerns with FC as well as strategize together as a body to come up with joint motions/resolutions.
    - **Question:**
        - What can be done through FC or to get faculty into these spaces where preliminary decisions are made regarding the Chancellor Search? Having Faculty Representation on the search committee is a primary goal.

6. Course Approvals

- Motion to vote as a block for section (New Courses); seconded and approved.
- Motion to vote (Substantial Changes); seconded and approved.
- Motion to review whether section (Minor Changes) need to be voted on; seconded and approved.
    - **New Courses:**
        - LATIN - 678 – Latin Literatures of Vesuvius
        - WGS - 160 – Introduction to LGBTQ+ Studies
    - **Substantial Changes:**
        - DANCE - 325 – Dance Theatre Workshop
    - **Minor Changes:**
        - COMM - 235 – Health Communication
        - COMM - 245 – Political Communication
- Motion to approve passed unanimously for section (New Courses) and passed unanimously for section (Substantial Changes).

7. New Business

A. 3-Year BA Programs/Gen Ed Review

- **Context:** There is a concern given that most accreditation agencies have approved 3-year programs, and Massachusetts has approved pilot programs. However, due to commitments towards alignment and synchronization, there is some thought that 3-Year BA Programs would have to be approved by the entire UMass System before being implemented.
- There is a desire to have this issue remain as ongoing Business Matter.
- **Questions:**
    - Could we invite members or chairs of the Provost Committee for Gen Ed Requirements and Renewal to address the Senate? Yes, there is a desire.
    - Is the Senate interested in having the Center for Innovative Teaching (CIT) host a Forum or Brew Chat on Gen Ed? Yes, there is interest.
    - Do people want to form a committee on space? No, we should first collect information.
    - Can we invite Margaret Hart, the contact person in Dean's Office who is designated to deal with Space issues, to address the Senate? Yes, we should invite them to our next meeting.

B. Beacon Budget Model

- No Further Discussion.

8. Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn seconded and approved. Motion passed unanimously.